

May 31 / Administration of William J. Clinton, 2000

have enough time to meet the deadline that both he and Mr. Arafat are trying to meet.

There's no—you shouldn't overread this. It's not like there's some bombshell out there. But we just really needed to have a face-to-face meeting, and we needed to do it in this time-frame. He couldn't come last week to the United States. Then he couldn't come to Berlin to the meeting to which he was also invited. So we're doing the best we can with a difficult situation.

Prime Minister Guterres. Ladies and gentlemen, I must confess I have enjoyed some time ago, very much, a picture called "NeverEnding Story," but I don't think we can repeat that picture and transform this press conference in a new version. So, thank you very much, all of you.

NOTE: The President's 190th news conference began at 2:49 p.m. at the Palacio Nacional de Queluz. The President met with Prime Minister Antonio Guterres of Portugal, in his capacity as President of the European Council, and President Romano Prodi of the European Commission. A portion of Prime Minister Guterres' remarks were in Portuguese and were translated by an interpreter. In the news conference, the following people were referred to: Commissioner Christopher Patten of the European Commission; High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy Javier Solana of the European Council; President Vladimir Putin of Russia; Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority; Minister of Foreign Affairs Jaime Gama of Portugal; and President Abdurrahman Wahid of Indonesia.

United States-European Union Summit Statement on a New World Trade Organization Round

May 31, 2000

Since the last U.S.-EU Summit in December, we have worked together in Geneva to rebuild confidence in the WTO and the multilateral system, with particular reference to developing countries. With our trade partners, we have agreed to a short-term package on market access for the least developed countries, an implementation work program, and on the high priority to be accorded to effective delivery of technical assistance.

The U.S. and EU reaffirm their conviction that the early launch of an inclusive new Round of WTO trade negotiations would offer a major boost to global economic growth, employment

and sustainable development, but must address in a balanced way the concerns of all WTO members.

The U.S. and EU pledge to build on the constructive work of the last six months to try to launch such a new Round during the course of the year. We have reiterated our common view that the WTO agenda should include the social issues of labor and environment, not as a matter of protectionism, but as a matter of social justice and sustainability.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

Statement on the Death of Governor Robert P. Casey

May 31, 2000

Hillary and I were saddened to learn of the death of Governor Bob Casey. Over the many years I knew him, I came to admire his toughness, tenacity, and commitment to principle. Those are the qualities that helped the son of a mule tender in the coal mines of northeastern

Pennsylvania lead a life of dedicated public service, culminating in two successful terms as Governor.

Throughout his career, Bob fought tirelessly for the people of Pennsylvania, never losing sight of the poor and their children. That

devotion was reflected in his support of universal health care, tougher environmental laws, expanded educational opportunity, and strong labor protections.

As Governors, Bob and I worked together on many of these causes. And when we dis-

agreed, I understood that his views were based on deep religious beliefs and a commitment to his convictions.

Hillary and I send our thoughts and prayers to his wife, Ellen, and the entire Casey family.

Statement on the Secretary of the Interior's Recommendation for the Creation of New National Monuments

May 31, 2000

I am pleased to receive Secretary Babbitt's recommendations today for the creation of new national monuments to protect unique Federal lands in Arizona, Colorado, Oregon, and Washington.

As trustee of much of our Nation's natural endowment, the Federal Government must do its utmost to ensure lasting protection of our most precious lands. That is why I asked the Secretary to identify Federal lands most in need of additional protection and why I have exer-

cised my authority under the Antiquities Act to grant such protection to some of our most cherished landscapes—from California's ancient sequoias to the North Rim of the Grand Canyon.

Each of the areas recommended today represents an exceptional, irreplaceable piece of America's natural and cultural heritage. I will carefully consider the recommendations and hope to reach a decision on them in the near future.

Remarks to the American Embassy Community in Lisbon

June 1, 2000

Thank you very much. First, I'm delighted to see you. I'm sorry we had to delay this a little bit, but we had the meeting with Prime Minister Barak. I want to thank, first, Gerry and Susan, my longtime friends. We went to college together. You can tell by looking at us, it was a very long time ago. [*Laughter*] Susan worked for me many years in the White House, and I miss her terribly, but I'm glad that they're here together. And I'm glad—we've got this whole McGowan bunch of kids here, proving that this is a pro-family administration. [*Laughter*]

I've been told that the people in our Embassy have produced 20 children in the last couple of years, so I want to thank you for that. I'll use that as an exhibit as I go around the world.

Obviously, I'm grateful to Secretary Albright and to Secretary Daley and to National Security Adviser Berger and our whole group. We had a wonderful time here, and I want to say more

about it in a minute. But I would like to say just a few words about the meeting I had with Prime Minister Barak this morning, because it is very important, and it's still early in America. So if I say it to you, they'll all hear it today. [*Laughter*]

First of all, he reaffirmed his intense commitment to reach an historic and complete agreement with the Palestinians, which I think is very important to settling all the issues and ending the conflict. I know from my own discussions with Chairman Arafat that he also shares this commitment and that he recognizes the real urgency of this moment to actually get back on the timetable and complete the work that has to be done.

I'm sending Secretary Albright to the Middle East next week to work with both leaders on narrowing the gaps that still remain between them. And I will soon meet with Chairman Arafat in Washington—I'll do it as quickly as